

**Town of Essex
Conservation Commission**

**Minutes
Thursday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.
Essex Town Hall**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on August 9, 2012 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall. Present: Chair, Kay Tucker, Doug Demarest, Pam Bernardini, Jeff Lovelace, and MaryAnn Pleva.

Attending Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

Absent: Rich Helmecki, Susan Malan and Ron Skinner

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Review and Approve the July 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes:

Motion made by Doug Demarest to table the approval of the July 12, 2012 Minutes.

Motion seconded by Pam Bernardini and passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Statements relating to Ingham Hill Road proposed subdivision:

Ms. Tucker referenced the 12-point letter written by the Conservation Commission to the Essex IWWC and asked members if they wished to make additional recommendations or statements to the Planning Commission.

Ms. Pleva suggested that the Planning Commission be apprised that the Conservation Commission is in support of the conclusions from the REMA report dated June 12, 2012.

After a brief discussion, members agreed that the following addendum will be added to the letter to the Planning Commission. "After additional review of the materials, the Conservation Commission would like to make the following recommendations: The Conservation Commission finds the June 12, 2012, REMA report thorough and the Commission supports the conclusion that a further study may be needed (as more specifically noted in section 4 on pages 12 and 13 of the REMA report). The Commission endorses the REMA conclusions and based on observations made during three site walks, the Commission believes that development of this property would not be in the best interest of conservation in Essex and therefore, oppose the subdivision application.

Motion made by Pam Bernardini to permit Kay Tucker to write a letter to the Essex Planning Commission with a copy to the IWWC which will list the additional statements as discussed during this meeting.

Motion seconded by Doug Demarest and passed unanimously.

Ms. Tucker acknowledged a letter to the Conservation Commission from Attorney Michele Mareska, Robinson & Cole dated August 9, 2012 which is a rebuttal to an August 9, 2012 letter from the Conservation Commission regarding the Ingham Hill Road subdivision application.

Trail Maintenance

Ms. Bernardini stated that when she was placing additional maps at Bushy Hill Nature trail, it was difficult to access the mailbox as it was overgrown. Ms. Bernardini will cut back the brush so the mailboxes are visible and accessible.

Inventory and Conservation Easement Project

Jenna Klinck the intern hired to inventory the easements within the town of Essex will begin this project toward the end of August, 2012.

Ms. Pleva researched and obtained current addresses for those property abutters to the town's conservation easements. Ms. Tucker will contact the Land Use office and request that the list of names and addresses be committed to a spreadsheet from which Ms. Klinck can work. Ms. Tucker commented on a letter of introduction that she authored and stated that she will inquire if the Land Use office will incorporate that letter into the database and send to the property abutters.

Other

Doug Demarest will attend a luncheon at the Essex Town Hall in September 2012.

Mr. Demarest reported that the gate at the top of Ingham Hill Road can be opened by the Public Works Department or by the CT Light and Power Company. Beyond the gate, the Essex property extends 400 feet before entering into the town of Old Saybrook.

New Business

Town Reports submittal

Ms. Tucker noted that the town report submission is now due. Ms. Tucker suggested that photos of the large limbs from the felled Tulip tree be included in the Commission's submittal. Also to be included will be a photo of the group in attendance at the Conservation Commission's yearly New Year's day walk. Ms. Tucker distributed a draft of the submission and members agreed to move forward with the draft.

Proposed Projects for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Ms. Tucker suggested as an upcoming project, exposing the large rocks leading to the trail to the turtle nesting area at Viney Hill Brook Park.

Ms. Tucker tabled the topic of proposed projects for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Other

Financial Report

The Conservation Commission encumbered \$5,293 from the 2011 budget. The Commission was awarded \$9,900 for the 2012 fiscal year. \$350 was paid to All-Habitat Services to spot treat the phragmite.

Inland Wetlands Report

Mr. Lovelace stated that he did not attend the July 2012 IWWC meeting. Mr. Lovelace noted that the Essex Zoning Commission held a workshop during their February 2012 regular meeting. The Gateway District boundaries on the Town map were discussed as well as a section by section assessment of the 2004 standards compared to the existing Essex section of the gateway regulations. After lengthy discussions the Zoning Commission edited the proposed 2004 standards with the existing regulations so as to adopt the 2004 standards in Essex. The Essex Zoning Commission requested that the Gateway Commission apply for both a map amendment and a text amendment of the Essex Zoning Regulations section 101 (Gateway Conservation District).

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Adjournment

Motion made by Doug Demarest to adjourn at 9:05p.m.

Motion seconded by Jeff Lovelace and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

The September 13, 2012 regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission has been cancelled. A special meeting will be conducted on Thursday September 6, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.